GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003
VOTER IDENTITY CARDS
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where working relating to preparation of voter identity cards are going on and the States where it is likely to begin within next few months;

(b) whether voter identity cards are likely to be issued to the citizens who have attained the age of 18 years on June 30, 2003;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS)

(a) to (c) The scheme of issuing electors` photo identity cards (EPICs) is being implemented by the State Governments/Union territory Administrations directly under overall charge of the Election Commission of India. The electoral roll is the basis for issue of EPICs to the registered electors. The electoral rolls are revised every year with 1st January of the year as the qualifying date. All persons who attain 18 years or above as on that date are eligible for inclusion in the electoral roll and can apply for the same. Once they are registered in the roll, they would be eligible for getting an EPIC. The scheme of issuing EPICs is, therefore, a continuous and ongoing process for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of! franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors. The electors who are not covered in the current programme will always constitute a residual part of the programme. The Commission`s continuous effort is to provide the EPICs to the electors who are left out in the previous campaigns as well as the new electors. A statement showing the progress of issuance of EPICs as on 30.7.2003 is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Does not arise.